



13281 U.S.PTO

042104

MS: PATENT APPLICATION

NIT-316-02

17513 U.S.PTO
10/828283

042104

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Prior Application: K. SOEJIMA et al
Serial No. 10/041,578
Filed: January 10, 2002

Group Art Unit: 2187
Examiner: N. Moazzami
For: VOLUME MANAGEMENT METHOD AND
APPARATUS

REQUEST FOR CONTINUATION APPLICATION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b)

MS: Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

April 21, 2004

Sir:

This is a request for filing a continuation application under 37 CFR §1.53(b) of pending prior application Serial No. 10/041,578, filed on January 10, 2002, entitled VOLUME MANAGEMENT METHOD AND APPARATUS, by all of the inventors named in the prior application.

1. Enclosed is a copy of the prior application, including the Declaration as originally filed.

2. The Filing Fee is calculated below:

**CLAIMS AS FILED IN THE PRIOR APPLICATION
LESS ANY CLAIMS CANCELED BY ACCOMPANYING PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
PLUS ANY CLAIMS ADDED BY ACCOMPANYING PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Basic Fee							\$ 770.00
Total Claims	14	-	20	=	0	x 18	= 0.00
Independent Claims	6	-	3	=	3	x 86	<u>= 258.00</u>
Total Filing Fee							\$1028.00

3. A credit card payment form including the amount of \$1028.00 is enclosed to cover the Filing Fee.

4. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.

5. New drawings are enclosed, eleven (11) sheets, Figs. 1-13.

6. The power of attorney is set forth in the Declaration in the prior application or an associate power of attorney is hereby granted to:

John R. Mattingly, Registration No. 30,293
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There is no change in the correspondence address.

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Please associate this application with Customer No. 24956.

7. The prior application is assigned to Hitachi, Ltd.
8. Priority of the following Japanese patent application is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119:

No. 2001-316860, filed October 15, 2001.

The certified priority document has been filed in prior application Serial No. 10/041,578.

The undersigned hereby declares that no matter contained in the specification, including the claims, and drawings filed in the present continuation application would have been new matter in the prior application Serial No. 10/041,578, as originally filed on January 10, 2002.



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